

Business permits will be
80% cheaper! pg 2

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December is AIDS
awareness month



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Early birds are rewarded with amazing bargains at the SETAR Mobile Bazaar 2010



Executive staff are in the spirit



One of the most anticipated events of holiday season on Aruba is the Sunday when SETAR NV, Aruba's national telecommunications company,

offers a full day of cellular phone sales at fantastically reduced prices. Veterans of the event are lined up in the parking lot from the day before, armed with pillows and coolers of food and beverages as

they await the opportunity to be one of the first 200 to purchase a bargain priced phone and then have a chance at the SETAR GRABBETON.

Continued on page 5

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Sand, snow, thunderstorms wreak Mideast havoc

CAIRO, Egypt (AFP) - Winds, rain, sandstorms and hail battered the southern and eastern Mediterranean yesterday, killing at least five people, closing ports and disrupting traffic in the Suez Canal.

Drought-stricken countries across the Middle East had been praying for rain for weeks when the weather turned violent at the weekend, with at least five people killed as gale-force winds and torrential rain pounded the coastline.

Winds topped 100 kilometres (60 miles) per hour and waves reached up to 10 meters (32.8 feet) tall as cities in Lebanon and Israel suffered power cuts.

At least three people were killed in Egypt when a factory collapsed in heavy rain in the densely populated northern port city of Alexandria.

The official Egyptian MENA news agency reported

that streets in the northern Beheira governorate were inundated and its cities and villages also experienced power cuts.

The storms, which briefly disrupted flight schedules, come after unseasonably high temperatures and a lack of rain ravaged forests across the region and left farmers struggling to survive.

An Italian container ship was also stranded off Egypt's northwestern coast of Marsa Matruh after its engines broke down, with 21 crew on board still waiting to be rescued.

Rain and hail whipped across Lebanon as the long-awaited first snowstorm of the year fell on mountains yesterday -- good news for the country's famed ski resorts but leaving many commuters stranded in icy conditions.

Seaside roads and ports closed yesterday morning, hours after a 45-year-old woman was killed when a falling palm tree crashed into her car.

The Beirut government evacuated several homes on the coast in the south and placed emergency rescue teams on alert.

In Israel, the body of the Russian tourist blown into the sea on Saturday has been found, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said on Sunday.

Waves of up to seven metres prevented police from carrying out searches for him but "his body later washed ashore on one of the beaches nearby," Rosenfeld said. Two people were also moderately hurt by falling trees, he added.

A Moldovan freighter also went down in stormy seas some 15 kilometres from Israel's port of Ashdod yesterday, but its 11 Ukrainian crew members were all rescued unharmed.

In the Golan Heights, an Israeli-occupied plateau which adjoins Syria, snow and rain

were abundant but sandstorms were expected in the south of the country, Israel's meteorology department said.

A snowstorm lashed Damascus, disrupting traffic but also bringing some relief from drought which has gripped Syria for the past four years. UN estimates say the drought has affected around 1.3 million Syrians.

Sandstorms also hit the desert countries of Jordan and Egypt and visibility deteriorated while temperatures plummeted.

Jordan was also bracing for heavy rain and snow, which officials warned could lead to flooding.

In Egypt, the bad weather forced several ports to close and disrupted traffic in the Suez Canal, which links the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.

Sweden blasts 'terrorist' attack claimed by Islamists

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AFP) - Sweden yesterday probed two bomb blasts that killed a person in central Stockholm as a "terrorist crime," as an Al-Qaeda-linked website claimed one of its militants had carried out the suicide attack.

Saturday's explosions -- a suspected suicide attack and separate blast -- targeted Christmas shoppers in a busy pedestrian quarter of the Swedish capital. Two people were also injured.

"We are opening an investigation into a terrorist crime," Anders Thornberg, head of the security unit of domestic intelligence Saepo, said yesterday. "We suspect that it was a suicide attack."

The man who died may have been the attacker, Thornberg added, but noted: "We will not draw conclusions too

quickly. If this was a suicide attack, it will be the first in Sweden."

Meanwhile an Islamist website called Shoumoukh al-Islam published a photograph of the man it said was the attacker.

"It is our brother, mujahid Taymour Abdel Wahab, who carried out the martyrdom operation in Stockholm," it said. The photograph showed a man in dark glasses and Western clothes.

The same photo was published in Swedish newspaper Expressen yesterday with the face blurred. An official for the paper's photo department told AFP that there was "quite enough evidence" to say that it was the picture of the attacker.

But a Saepo spokeswoman, Carolina Ekeus, refused to comment on the Islamist website's claim.

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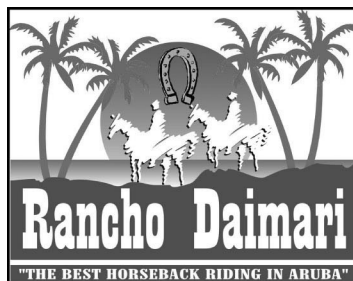
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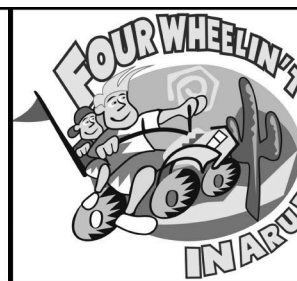
MOGADISHU, Somalia -- Photo depicts an internally displaced Somali woman, cooks for her family at the Elasha Biyaha IDPs camp 18km out of Mogadishu. Somalia remains in a state of "chronic catastrophe" with two million people in need of humanitarian assistance, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden said on the weekend. (AFP PHOTO)



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Editorial

Unbelievable, is the reaction you get when you see the way many Aruban drivers move on our highways...as well as on off roads! The question we constantly ask is....what is the hurry, is somebody dying that this driver has to save?

Now, I know that speeding on the road is not unique to Aruba...this happens in every country. Yet, speeding on Aruban roads poses twice as much danger than on most other roads. It is dangerous firstly because our roads are relatively short; you can't go very far anyway.

Secondly, our roads are usually congested with a fair amount of slow moving drivers. Passing these slow moving drivers is always risky.

To date there are 14 traffic fatalities for 2010! This is an alarming amount of people who have lost their lives because of drivers who failed to respect the traffic laws and to value theirs and the lives of other people.

It is so bad that many times you are driving along and some speeding driver will overtake your car only to pull over and park or drive up to stop only a few feet away from your car! You wonder, why did he have to overtake me at that hell's

speed just to get off and park within feet of my moving car?

We definitely need to do something to educate our drivers, to teach them the true value of human life, and the moral obligation that we all have to obey the traffic laws. Handing out speeding tickets for traffic violations is like putting a plaster on the sore. While it may help to curb the speeding, at least for a spell, it certainly does not solve the problem.

Finding a solution for the disobedient, belligerent speeding driver is deserving of an in-depth research and analysis. Suffice me to mention still another extremely serious problem on our roads, and that is the growing number of drinking and/or drunk drivers.

According to a recent police report, the problem of drinking and driving remains a major concern for all who traverse our roads and highways. These drivers with dimmed vision, impaired reflexes, and heavy feet because of the alcohol substance in their system puts the lives of everyone in serious danger. They have caused the death of countless Arubans and others over the years. We urge our authorities to attack this problem with diligence and resolute resolve...today!

We need to stop the constant babbling about the problem, and do something. The time we put in organizing press conferences to talk about the problem, to recite the statistics and to tell how grave the problem is, would be better spent coming up with a solution. We applaud the efforts by our police to identify these drivers in their constant road checks, but so much more must be done to curb the growing amount of intoxicated and speeding drivers. In Papiamentu we have a popular phrase we use which is so appropriate right now "Man na Obra!" This means, let's get to work!



Government extends financial help to low income citizens

ORANJESTAD -- To alleviate the financial crisis facing particularly our low income citizens, the government is poised to introduce in January 2011, a first time for Aruba, the so called, 'Buying Power Recovery Allowance.' This allowance will be extended to those earning less than Afls.2500 monthly.

During the recently held Social Dialogue it was noted that life has become extremely difficult for those with an income of less than Afls.2,500 per month. Inflation caused by the BBO and the high cost of oil have caused prices to skyrocket in the past year. The direct effect of these high prices has adversely affected the buying power of everyone, but most specifically, the low income group of citizens.

One measure to help curtail this negative effect was the reduction of the BBO with 15%.

An additional measure has



now been submitted to Parliament for approval, which is the Buying Power Recovery Allowance.

The allowance will be a Afls.50 monthly stipend for those earning Afls.2500 or less and increasing to about Afls.900 annually, Afls.75 monthly. For 60 plussers on

pension and their spouses the Buying Power Recovery Allowance will be set at Afls.600 annually or Afls.50 monthly. The Buying Power Recovery Allowance will also be completely tax exempt.

During the Social Dialogue it was difficult to ascertain how much relief was achieved by the reduction of the BBO and what exactly was the effect of this reduction to the consumer directly. However, it was decided that something must be done to assist those with marginal incomes and moderate means directly. Hence, the reason for the introduction of this measure called the Buying Power Reduction Allowance. The government is convinced that this measure will have a significant and positive effect on the buying power of those with the lowest income in our community. The government intends to foot the bill for this measure from their own coffers.

Business permits will be 80% cheaper!

ORANJESTAD -- Come January 2011, what used to be a stumbling block for the establishment of a new small or medium-sized business, namely, the Afls.2000 license fee, will be reduced to Afls.400! Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, made this announcement in a recent press conference. According to the minister, this 80% (Afls.400) reduction will stimulate more entrepreneurs to open small or medium size businesses. She emphasized that petitions for business licenses should be had more swiftly and must be less expensive than the current Afls.2000 required for obtaining said license to operate a business.

Also, contrary to the current procedure where payment for such a petition must be made in full at the time of making the request, as of January 1st payment can be made in two installments. At the submission of the application a payment of 50% can be made, and later when said petition is ready the entrepreneur can make the final payment of Afls. 200.

The minister is convinced

that this new measure will act as an important stimulus for the establishment of more small businesses. Hooyboer-Winklaar recognizes that there are several financial obligations that any new entrepreneur must face prior to opening a new business, and that obtaining the required business license is one of those financial costs which weigh heavily on the list of expenses.

Another welcome measure announced was that as of January 2011, there will no longer be a fee for the request to extend business opening hours. Currently business owners could pay anywhere from Afls.200 to Afls.800 depending on different factors, for a permit to extend their opening hours. These fees will be eliminated. Normal closing hours in Aruba is now set for 6:30 p.m., however a study is being made to determine what will be the allowed closing time in the future.

According to the minister of Economic and Social Affairs, 2011 will be a year of opportunity for local companies. The announced changes, she



believes, will provide the necessary impulse for the establishment of new businesses and to stimulate entrepreneurship on Aruba. Other positive fiscal changes will be the reduction of import duties on new vehicles, reduction on import duties for alternative energy products ('green' products), the introduction of tax deductions for business investment, to mention a few of the many positive measures for business establishments.

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Saudi media fall for Obama Muslim joke

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) – When a US satirist joked that President Barack Obama will admit to Congress that he is Muslim in his latest compromise with Republicans, Saudi media took it seriously.

On Friday the online version of Al-Hayat newspaper and the prominent news website Sabq.org both reported straightforwardly humourist Andy Borowitz's column that began:

"In his latest effort to find common ground with Republicans in Congress, President Barack Obama said today that he was willing to agree that he is a Muslim.

"In agreeing that he is a

Muslim, Mr. Obama is sending a clear signal that he is trying to find consensus," Borowitz said in the column posted on the Huffington Post and The Borowitz Report websites.

Both Al-Hayat, one of the Middle East's most influential newspapers, and Sabq, believed to be controlled by the Saudi interior ministry, apparently missed the joke.

Despite Obama repeatedly saying he is Christian, because his native-Kenyan father was born a Muslim, and because his middle name is Hussein, many Muslims and even some US Republicans suspect he is secretly Muslim

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The story of Cas Animal cont'd... Cats love cuddling too!

Foundation Cas Animal is the result of one woman's inability to ignore the stray and abused dogs and cats of Aruba. Kiki Arndt came from Germany to live on the island 14 years ago with 9 cats in tow and found two abandoned dogs in the house she had rented. Unintentionally, she found her calling in life and has been taking in stray and injured dogs ever since, to nurse them back to health, physically and psychologically. She now cares for 72 dogs in her home and houses 38 cats at a friend's, hoping to find kind-hearted individuals who will adopt them.

This week we introduced Daisy, a beautiful young cat very desperately in need of a good home. She is now in the foster care of a local lady who found her on the street, and thought her too attractive and sweet to abandon. Kiki and Cas Animal are doing their best to find this white cat, with touches of tabby coloring, a permanent place to live.

Unfortunately, this lady travels extensively and cannot keep Daisy, who she describes as "incredibly loving and affectionate. I always thought cats were very independent creatures and it was dogs that always wanted the love and attention, but this cat will curl up in your lap as soon as you sit down and is very attentive. It is young, but was old enough to be neutered, which we have done, as that is only the right thing to do. She needs a proper home, which I cannot provide, and I have asked all my colleagues and friends, but have no takers yet."

Kiki's dream is to find good homes among island residents and visitors for Daisy and any of the other sweet animals she has rescued. If anyone is interested in adopting Daisy in particular, they can call 738-1171.

Kiki can be reached directly at 742-8732, for those wishing to assist her in her efforts or adopt a companion. She maintains an Animal Ambulance with funds raised



Daisy



Kiki and her animal ambulance

by her parents in Germany to pick up and return dogs needing a visit to the vet when owners do not have transportation, as well as rescuing hurt strays and abused animals. Her food and vet bills are astronomical, even with discounts, and donations to the foundation are welcome. Kiki is now attempting to raise the funds to build a proper facility for all her charges on land the government has awarded her and

has sold her homes towards that end, taking her halfway to her goal. She can also be contacted through the Contreras Veterinary Clinic, which has become a partner in her efforts, at convet@setarnet.aw-attention of Yessy, and mention "for Kiki" Donations can be made directly to CMB Bank account # 25762110-"Cas Animal."

by Rosalie Klein

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Early birds are rewarded with amazing bargains at the SETAR Mobile Bazaar 2010

Continued from page 1



Fun spot for the kids

Over twenty high end models of mobile phone, such as the LG Arena and the HTC Touch Pro could be had when purchasing a new phone from the regular schedule of models, for only 35 Aruban florins (\$20). Buyers pick blind with a good chance of paying only a fraction of the cost for phones that normally sell for hundreds of dollars.

SETAR makes it a fun day for those waiting to obtain a

new phone for themselves or as gifts; food vendors, Gaita singing groups and a special section to keep the kids busy help to pass the time waiting on line. They are rewarded with the opportunity to pick up the most welcome gift they can give, to themselves or a loved one, at a very, very affordable price.

For as little as \$11, a "mystery phone" could be obtained, perfect for a young-



A happy young man shows off his new champ

ster's first phone, or the latest models, such as a Samsung Champ, went for a top price of \$100. The day ended with the traditional SETAR end of the year fireworks display, and a entertaining shopping day was had by all.

by Rosalie Klein



Sci-Tech

Loyal YouTube users get to upload longer videos



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Filmmakers who have played by the rules on YouTube can now post works longer than 15 minutes at the world's leading video-sharing website.

Google-owned YouTube in July raised the video-length limit to 15 minutes for all users but has sent out word that filmmakers who haven't abused copyright and other rules will be exempted from that time cap.

"Our creativity isn't bound by a time limit, so why should our video uploads be?" Google product manager Joshua Siegel and company software engineer Doug Mayle asked rhetorically in a blog post Friday.

"As long as it's your original content, it's fair game regardless of length."

The move was made possible in part by better tools for identifying copyrighted material posted on YouTube without permission from content owners, according to Siegel

Facebook holds inaugural "Hackers Cup"

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Facebook is challenging software hotshots around the world to show their mettle in the online social networking king's first "Hackers Cup."

Facebook is taking its tradition of all-night "hackathons" to a higher level with an international coding competition promising top contenders cash, glory, and a free trip to the company's Northern California headquarters.

The contest consists of a set of online rounds that kick off in January and a final round in March held at Facebook's campus in the Silicon Valley city of Palo Alto.

Facebook will pay for the top 25 contestants in the online rounds to come to California for the final stage of the competition.

The first place finisher is promised 5,000 dollars and will no doubt catch the eye of recruiters at Facebook. Details about the contest can be found at a Hackers Cup page at Facebook.

and Mayle.

Major US movie and music studios are among the more than 1,000 "global partners" that use a Content ID system to manage their digitized material on YouTube.

Videomakers can click an "upload" icon on YouTube to learn whether their accounts qualify to post longer works.

Nations set up global climate fund

CANCUN (AFP) — Global talks on climate change Saturday set up a new fund to manage billions of dollars in aid to poor nations in a hard-fought package that turned the page on the bitter Copenhagen summit.

More than 190 countries meeting in Mexico agreed to seek "deep cuts" in carbon emissions blamed for global warming. But negotiators kept ambitions in check and tried to make headway on select areas instead of seeking a treaty.

In a change from Copenhagen's venomous atmosphere last year, the talks in the beach resort of Cancun ended after two sleepless nights with standing ovations for the chief negotiator, Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa.

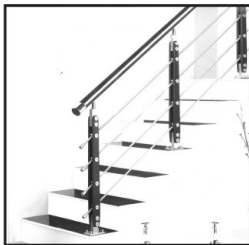



US President Barack Obama congratulated Mexican President Felipe Calderon in a phone call for "Mexico's excellent work chairing the Cancun conference to a successful conclusion that builds on the historic Copenhagen Accord and advances the effort to address the challenge of climate change," the White House said.

The agreement represents "a balanced and significant step forward" and "meaningful progress in our global response to climate change," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton added.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who flew to Cancun to plead for progress, said the negotiations "have delivered important success for a world much in need of it."

The Cancun agreement set up a "Green Climate Fund" to administer assistance to poor

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Members of Greenpeace and Tcktcktck spell out their message on a beach in Cancun, Mexico

nations, which many experts say are already suffering more floods and drought as temperatures steadily mount.

The fund will be steered by a board of 24 members chosen evenly from developed and developing nations. For the first three years, the new international organization would be overseen by the World Bank -- a controversial point for some who distrust the Washington-based lender.

The European Union, Japan and the United States since last year led pledges of 30 billion dollars in immediate assistance, to rise to 100 billion dollars a year to start by 2020.

A broader issue is just how wealthy nations would raise the money, with few governments enthusiastic to commit such large amounts in tough economic times. Some envoys advocated taxing airplane and shipping fuel.

But the meeting postponed much of the hardest work -- including the determination of emission cuts for all nations -- for 2011 talks in South Africa.

The Cancun agreement called for "urgent action" to cap temperature rises at no

more than two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, and asks for a study on strengthening the commitment to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The proposal says it "recognizes that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science."

The Cancun deal also agreed on ways forward on fighting deforestation, a leading cause of climate change, and on monitoring nations' climate pledges.

Bolivia was the main holdout. To the dismay of many bleary-eyed negotiators, Bolivia's Pedro Solon took the microphone repeatedly after midnight, saying the deal would not halt climate change but "put more humans in a near-death situation."

Espinosa overruled him, saying that UN rules requiring consensus did not give one country "veto power."

Solon objected, and a spokesman for the Bolivian delegation later said it would go to "all international bodies, including the tribunal in The Hague," to argue that the way the agreement was approved violated international

law.

The vast majority of countries however offered support. Australian Climate Change Minister Greg Combet called the deal a "historic step forward."

Chief US negotiator Todd Stern said: "Obviously the package is not going to solve climate change by itself, but I think it is a big step forward."

The talks were stuck for days over the fate of the Kyoto Protocol, the landmark treaty whose obligations on wealthy countries to cut emissions expires in late 2012.

The European Union led calls for a new round of commitments under Kyoto, a move that Japan opposed, noting that the protocol covers only 30 percent of global emissions because top polluters including China and the United States are not part of it.

In a compromise Japan accepted, the Cancun agreement called for work on a second period of the Kyoto Protocol "to ensure that there is no gap," but did not oblige countries to be part of the new round.

The Kyoto Protocol makes no demands on emerging economies to curb emissions. China has refused to be subjected to a treaty, although India in a surprise shift in Cancun said it would at least consider binding action in the future.

The United States was the only wealthy nation to snub Kyoto. Obama shifted gears on climate when he took office, but his hopes for legislation to restrict carbon were dashed when the rival Republican Party won last month's election.

Health & Living

Pfizer pulls Thelin from market due to fatal risk

NEW YORK (AFP) – Pfizer said it was voluntarily withdrawing Thelin in the European Union, Canada and Australia and is also suspending all clinical tests on the drug that treats pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a rare, incurable disease that can result in heart failure and early death.

"While liver toxicity is a known complication of the class of drugs to which Thelin belongs, a new potentially life-threatening idiosyncratic risk of liver injury with Thelin has been observed," Pfizer said in a statement.

"Given the availability of alternate treatments, Pfizer has concluded that the overall benefit of Thelin no longer outweighs the risk in the general population of PAH patients."

The company said it had notified health authorities about its findings and its decision to withdraw Thelin from the market and stop clinical studies.

"Patients taking Thelin or participating in Thelin studies are advised to consult with their health care professional as soon as possible," it said.

It added that patients should not stop taking Thelin until they speak with their doctor.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said it had been informed of the move and would discuss the issue at its meeting next week.

Pfizer acquired the rights to Thelin -- an oral, once-daily drug -- when it took over Encysive Pharmaceuticals in

2008 in a 195-million-dollar deal.

Thelin had yet to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, which said it was not sufficiently effective.

PAH is estimated to affect 100,000 to 200,000 people in North America and Europe, including about 55,000 in the United States.

Though rare, the disease affects men and women of all races and ages, but is more common among women aged 20 through 40. The disease may be misdiagnosed as asthma, anemia or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

PAH is characterized by high blood pressure and structural changes in the walls of the pulmonary arteries, the blood vessels that connect the right side of the heart to the lungs.

The pulmonary arteries become thickened and constricted, forcing the heart to work harder to pump blood through the lungs, leading to fatigue and eventually to heart failure.

Thelin acts to dilate the constricted blood vessels, thereby reducing pulmonary arterial pressure and improving the heart's performance.

Thelin sales reached 44.4 million dollars in the first nine months of this year, according to Pfizer spokesman Allen Curtis.

The news did little to Pfizer's shares, which were virtually unchanged on Wall

England reports new swine flu deaths

LONDON, England (AFP) – Eight people have died from swine flu in England since early September, health authorities told AFP on Saturday, with Britain seemingly at the forefront of a winter resurgence in Europe.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) insisted it was to be expected that the H1N1 strain of flu that caused the 2009 pandemic would be the most common strain this winter.

A spokeswoman told AFP that since early September, "10 deaths associated with confirmed influenza infection in England have been reported, eight with influenza A H1N1."

Professor John Watson, head of respiratory diseases department at the HPA, told The Independent newspaper: "We seem to be in the vanguard on this. Other European countries are just beginning to see some H1N1 activity."

Britain was among the first countries hit by swine flu after it emerged in Mexico early last year, and at one point recorded more than 100,000 new cases a week as the virus was officially declared a pandemic.

Watson said in a statement: "Over the last few weeks we have seen a rise in the number of cases of seasonal flu, including both H1N1 (2009) and flu B."

"We have also received reports of patients with serious illness requiring hospitalisation and outbreaks of flu in schools across the country."

He warned that it was dangerous for the elderly, pregnant women and people with heart, lung, liver or kidney problems, and urged people to get vaccinated if they were in an at-risk group.

In Britain, spread of swine flu slowed over summer 2009 then briefly accelerated again in cooler autumn weather and as children returned to school in September, but then dropped off into the winter months, and as vaccines started being used.

There were 494 deaths in the year to April 2010, The Independent said.

The World Health Organisation declared the swine flu pandemic over in August, more than a year after the new virus spread around the world, sparking panic and killing thousands before fizzling out.



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Italian hospital asks doctors not to snort cocaine at work

ROME, Italy (AFP) – An Italian hospital director sent a memo to doctors and nurses asking them not to snort cocaine while on duty, the ANSA news agency reported Saturday.

Giuseppe Di Maria now faces possible disciplinary action following the memo sent to medical staff at the Santa Catarina Novella di Galatina Hospital near Lecce in southern Italy.

The memo was sent after Di Maria received anonymous tip-offs about the practice at the hospital, the report said.

Social services chiefs have opened an internal inquiry into the affair and also referred it to the local prosecutor's office.

Director of social affairs



Guido Scoditti said he had no choice but to pass the matter on to the authorities.

"The director of the hospital has certainly made an error, he should not have sent this memo, he should have informed me directly."

"The alleged consumption of cocaine in a hospital environment should certainly not be dealt with in this way," he said.

Sex and aging

Are sex and aging like oil and water? No! Many older adults desire and enjoy an active sex life. And an active interest in sex, as well as satisfaction with the frequency and quality of sexual activity, is positively associated with health in later life. So don't let anyone tell you that sex is only for the young.

Of course, there are some challenges when it comes to sex and aging. Physical changes, illness, disabilities and some medicines can make sex challenging or difficult to enjoy. Yet, many resources are available to older adults to help them achieve a satisfying sex life. Don't be afraid to bring up concerns with your doctor



or other health care provider.

And remember, whatever your age, take precautions to protect yourself from sexually transmitted infections.



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There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when

visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

The official arrival of holiday season has a number of company party planners scrambling at the last minute for a venue for their end of the year festivities; if you have a group to small for the larger resorts and are looking for a unique and charming location with an expert gourmet chef, the new Nikky Beach will very

likely come to the rescue. Contact Lub to arrange a customized holiday party for your group to fit your budget, including free-flowing mimosas.

This month they are hosting a number of special public parties on Saturday nights, starting with the 10th anniversary bash of the I LUV MUZIKA group this coming Saturday, December 4, which should be a blast. Until arrival of Christmas there will be more such events, and they will crown their month with a special holiday dinner on December 25 and 26.

Hans and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

When first investigating Nikky Beach we discovered extremely interesting items on the menu at very moderate prices; their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that re-



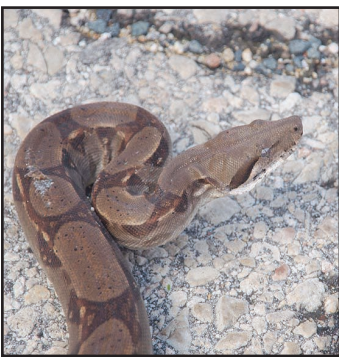
veals expertise in several notable cuisines coupled with a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing

rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeach-aruba.com.

by Rosalie Klein

Inaugural Aruba National Boa Hunt hindered by heavy showers



A proliferation of boa constrictors, a predator which has no known enemy on Aruba, has environmentalists alarmed regarding the impact to the native wildlife and ecosystem. How they came to make a home in Aruba's countryside is speculation, but they have found it an ideal habitat and quickly reproduced to present a real and present danger to every indigenous species and pets.

During the week preceding the concerted boa hunt yesterday, December 12, three training sessions were conducted at various community centers where almost 130 volunteers learned how to hunt and bag the boas.

Three teams began at 8:00 a.m. at the base of Crystal Berg, Seroe Preto near San

Nicolas and from what had formally been the drive-in theater, to beat the bushes and capture boas. Gisbert Boekhoudt led the largest party, numbering 80 volunteers, out of the area of the drive-in. By 11:00 a.m. his group had managed to bag 10 boas. Efforts were sorely hampered by heavy rains which prompted the boas to stay low in the bushes, rather than coming out to bask in the sun. One

team reported finding one hanging from a tree.

Gisbert confirmed the group from San Nicolas had no success; the Crystal Berg team had yet to report in at time of print. One commented the boas appeared to have an affinity for piles of loose leaves; this would suggest that households would be wise to clean up the accumulated piles of greenery commonly found from cleaning overgrown yards produced by a busy rainy season such as Aruba has had these past months, particularly if they have pets outside.

Diego Marquez, leader of the boa clean up effort and consulting ecologist to Arikok National Park, had expressed the hope to have at least 200 volunteers participate in the first hunt. The organizing committee is already discussing a second effort on Sunday, January 9, 2011. Those interested in participating in future hunts can contact the organizers at boa.taskforce@gmail.com.

by Rosalie Klein



Volunteers in the Kibaima area show off some of their catch



Park rangers bag a double catch

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For a good dose of authentic holiday cheer visit the Maduro Christmas Village

Fourteen years ago, Frido and Deta Maduro had acquired some cute miniatures they felt would make a charming addition to the space under their Christmas tree, presenting a charming holiday scene. They liked it so much they collected more and more such knick-knacks over the years, enlarging their efforts until their holiday diorama took over an entire room.

Seven years ago they decided to open their doors to visitors so as to share their enthusiasm for the season; it is now a popular holiday tradition for many Aruban families to



visit the Maduro's home at Tanki Leendert 235 to be in-

spired by their efforts.

Hearing about it does not quite prepare one for this remarkable and extensive display. The room emulates a night time scene and the arrangement requires much study to truly appreciate their whimsical artistry. There are beautifully landscaped town squares, a working tram taking sled riders and skiers to the top of a snowy hill, and a full fledged carnival with tiny working rides and exhibits.

Close scrutiny reveals all sorts of amusing activities, from a drunk being thrown out of an elegant dance hall where you can see the dancers moving on the floor through the windows, to a policeman breaking up an argument over a fender bender. Beautifully styles churches abound, from cozy little corner houses of worship to awe-inspiring cathedrals, all in miniature. A stunning manger scene occupies a special place.

Frido and Deta work around the clock beginning September 1 to set up their Christmas Village, and officially opened it to the public on Friday, December 10 with the lighting of his outdoor decorations; also quite impressive. The Maduros welcome visitors to their classic cunucu style home every evening from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. to share their enthusiasm



Aruban christmas cunucu style



Mountain snow scene



for the season, at no charge. Their fantastic display will stay open every night until January 6, 2011, except for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as well as New Year's Eve. Do not

miss an opportunity to visit with Frido and Deta and their delightful display; it embodies the holiday spirit and Christmas on Aruba.

by Rosalie Klein

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COMICS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

AT 6'S AND 7'S

Clues to all the 6- and 7-letter entries in this crossword are listed first, and they are in scrambled order. Use the numbered clues as solving hints to help you determine where each one belongs in the diagram.

6-LETTER ENTRIES

Written communication
Six-line stanza
Delete
Rushlike plants
Weld
Professional fool
Flair
Chocolate dessert
Spouted container
Geometric shape
Apartment
Explodes
Loves
Unfold
Approve
Company
Chooses
Hans Brinker, e.g.
Struck with amazement
Small sofa

7-LETTER ENTRIES

"___ Leap"
Anybody
Promising
Come forth
Diary
Compassionate
Arm bone
Motors
Short-route plane
Do needlework
On the shore
Future frog
Recreation vehicle
Saves
Aim
Thrills
Snag
Tract of land
Red
Puzzles

ACROSS

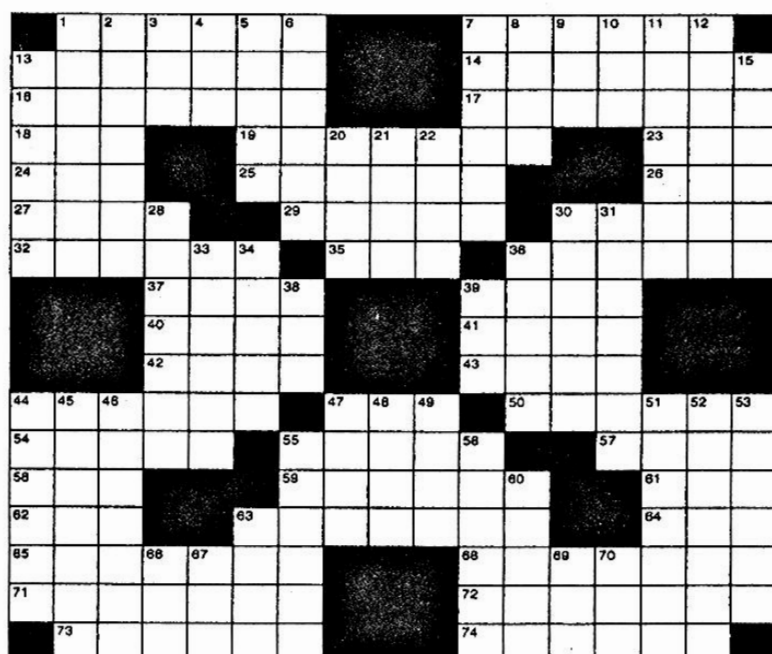
18. Vessel
23. Obtain
24. Literary collection
26. N.Y.C. opera house
27. Squeals
29. T.S. or George
30. Disgrace
35. Anchorperson
37. Comedian Johnson
39. Tropical tree
40. Space
41. Boorish
42. Party, on Molokai
43. Finished
47. Mandible
54. Bother

DOWN

3. Japanese coin
4. Child
5. Harden
8. Joint
9. Turkish title
10. "___ the season..."
20. Peddled
21. Director Kazan

22. Bard's river

34. Weasel
36. Purplish
38. Ratite bird
39. In favor of
47. "___ the Obscure"
48. Small particle
49. Had on
60. Gaze intently
63. History Muse
66. ___-la-la
67. Spigot
69. Spot
70. Submit, as a question



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Numbers

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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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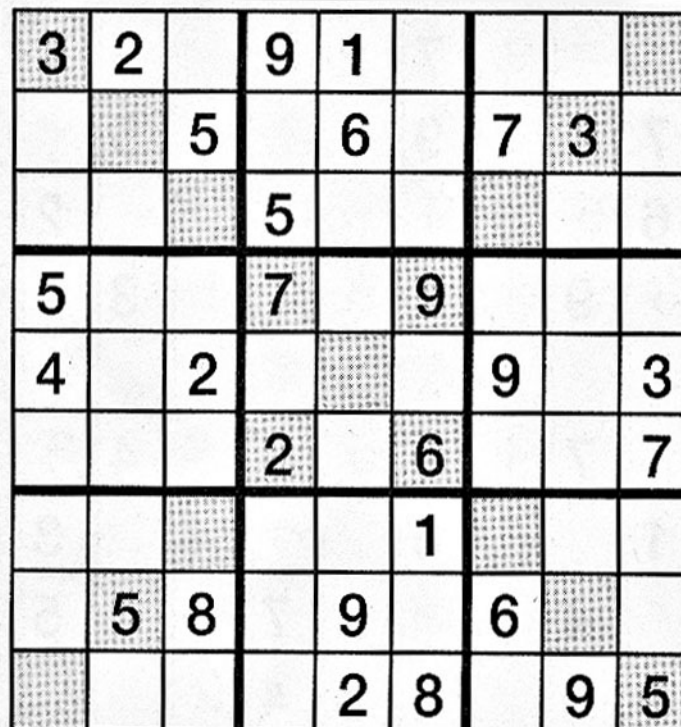
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	9	3	8	2	4	6	1	7
2	5	8	3	9	7	1	6	4
4	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	9
8	6	1	3	2	4	5	7	9
4	7	2	1	8	5	9	6	3
3	9	6	8	7	4	1	2	5
5	6	9	3	7	1	4	8	2
8	6	9	3	7	1	4	8	2
1	4	5	8	6	2	7	3	9
3	2	7	1	4	5	8	6	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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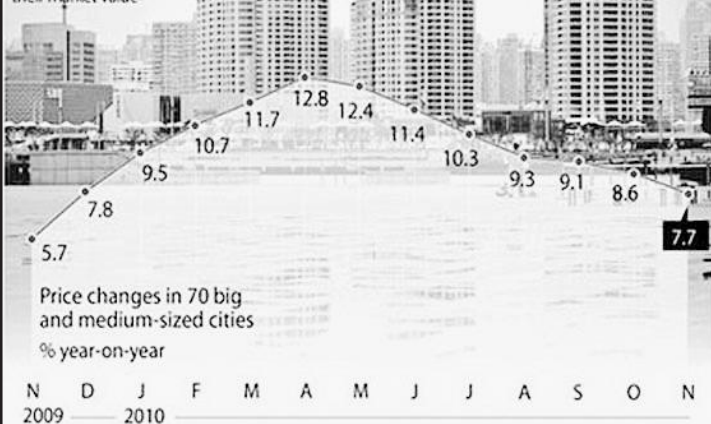
Free Wi-Fi Spot

Finance

China property

Prices remain high despite the government's efforts to cool the red-hot market

Property prices in key cities like Shanghai are between 30 and 50 percent above their market value



Property prices in 70 major cities in China recorded their third straight month-on-month rise in November, official data showed Friday, defying Beijing's attempts to cool the red-hot market and avoid a damaging bubble. (AFP PHOTO)



A visitor walks in front of a booth at an economic fair in Kuala Lumpur earlier this year. Malaysia's foreign direct investment has jumped 141 percent in the first nine months, in a rebound analysts say is partly due a series of bold economic reforms introduced by the government. (AFP PHOTO)



An aerial view shows skyscrapers, some of them under construction, along the Dubai Marina. Dubai's economy is expected to bounce 4.0 percent next year as it recovers from a recession that struck in 2009 as a result of the global financial crisis, Standard Chartered bank says. (AFP PHOTO)

Lawmakers: US House to approve tax deal despite doubts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US House will approve a deal reached by President Barack Obama and Republicans that would avoid a major New Year's tax hike but was rejected by majority Democrats last week, a senior Democratic lawmaker said yesterday.

"In some form it will come to the floor of the House for a vote," assistant Speaker of the House of Representatives Chris Van Hollen told Fox News Sunday. "There are some House Democrats who will refuse to go along with any deal (but) most of us un-

derstand we've got to make some tough compromises."

"I am confident that when we get to January there will be no tax increases on middle-income Americans."

However, he said Democrats still opposed a point of compromise that would restore the estate tax -- which expired in 2010 but was due to resume in 2011 -- at a lower rate of 35 percent for estates above five million dollars.

"We're not going to hold this thing up at the end of the day, but we do think that simple question should be put to

the test," Van Hollen said.

The White House and Republicans have so far resisted calls to change the deal, which would extend 2001 and 2003 tax cuts -- including on the wealthiest Americans -- past their built-in January 1, 2011 expiration date.

Republican Representative Paul Ryan, appearing on the same program, ruled out any deal that did not include the estate tax reduction.

The answer is no, we are not interested in changing this deal. We're interested in passing this through," he said.

Microfinance pioneer Yunus criticises Indian lenders

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AFP) - Bangladeshi microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus yesterday attacked companies for "misusing and abusing" his original concept of helping poor people via small loans, after a backlash against profit-making lenders.

Yunus admitted the reputation of micro-credit had been tarnished due to Indian commercial companies that charge high interest rates and use allegedly heavy-handed tactics to collect repayments.

India's biggest lender to the poor, SKS Microfinance, has

been in the spotlight following a series of suicides among debt-laden villagers in Andhra Pradesh state, where authorities have reacted by ordering a crackdown on microfinanciers.

"A lot of people are misusing and abusing the concept and use it as vehicle to make money. And SKS is a big example in this regard," Yunus told reporters in Dhaka.

He said SKS boss Vikram Akula had set up a non-governmental organisation and transformed it into a profit-making company which he then launched on the Mumbai

stock exchange.

"It's a complete detour and nothing but a quitting of the (microfinance) mission," said Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his Grameen Bank's microfinance work.

"The original micro-credit concept cannot be blamed for their faults," he added.

The microfinance industry in India, once seen as a saviour of the poor, is in crisis after criticism of the alleged abusive practices by debt collectors and high interest rates.

Some 17 of the suicide victims were SKS borrowers, but the company has strongly denied its actions led to their deaths.

Yunus also said he was pleased the Norwegian government had cleared him of embezzlement allegations raised in a recent television documentary.

Hundreds rally in Russia in support of Khodorkovsky

SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia (AFP) - About 300 people rallied in central Saint Petersburg yesterday in support of jailed oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky ahead of a new court verdict to be announced next week.

Khodorkovsky and his partner Platon Lebedev, who are already serving an eight-year sentence for fraud, currently await their verdict in Moscow in the second trial on new charges. The court is to start reading it Wednesday.

"We believe that the sentence on Khodorkovsky will be the sentence on the future. Whatever it is, it will shape our tomorrow," said Olga Kurnosova of the oppositional

movement United Civic Front.

People chanted "Freedom for Khodorkovsky and Lebedev!" and "The people united will never be defeated!" while some held up large portraits of the former head of Yukos oil company and signs "Justice is me," signed "Putin".

Khodorkovsky's prosecution is seen by his supporters as politically motivated and masterminded by Vladimir Putin, who was president when Khodorkovsky was first jailed in 2003.

Khodorkovsky and Lebedev would finish their initial prison terms next year, but could be facing many more years behind bars after next week's verdict.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

FORAGED APEMAN LASHES
OREGANO SALINE ENROLL
UNDERONESWINGS AGORAE
LIDS SEVENS ETAPE STE
ETE NESS SLEPT REIT
RHEA TENS CHERT DEFOE
SORRIEST SHANS FRIEND
ROES AMINO DIANA
DEFEND SLACK GANGSTER
AMISS STORK SIVAS HEE
TILT ROOSTERTAIL HERE
ELL DEMOS NOONE MARIS
RYEBREAD TWIST PARSEE
DEALS SAILS HAIR
PATSY'S SEERS HORMIGAS
ASHES SHALE BEMA SLIP
SPET PLUMS DORE ERR
SIB OLAFI MANORS SABI
ARISTA FLYINGDUTCHMAN
GILPIN LEANTO NEAREST
ENLAGE ESPIES STRIDES



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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals

Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of

home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three



bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.gold-coastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of ac-



commodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Nicole Richie, Joel Madden Say "I Do!"



LOS ANGELES, California -- Nicole Richie, daughter of music superstar Lionel Richie, has married rocker Joel Madden, the father of her two children.

Richie, 29, and Madden, 31, tied the knot Saturday at her father's estate with about 130 close family and friends.

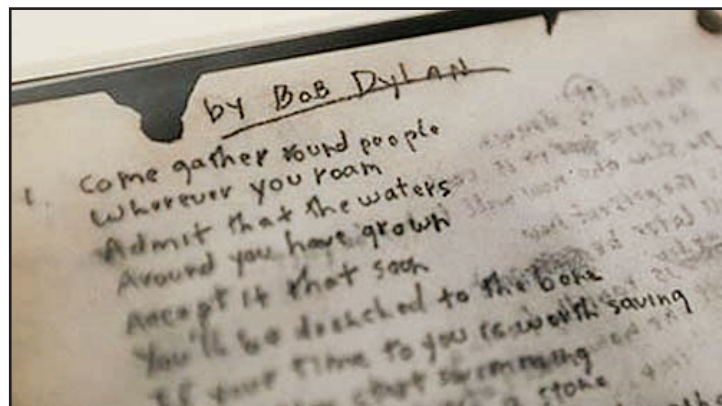
Classic Dylan lyrics sell for \$ 422,500 in New York

NEW YORK (AFP) -- The hand-written lyrics of Bob Dylan's iconic 1960s anthem "The Times They Are A-Changin'" sold for 422,500 dollars on Friday, the auction house selling it said.

The two-page notebook manuscript -- which had been expected to go for 200,000 to 300,000 dollars -- was snapped up by American collector Adam Sender, owner of the hedge fund Exis Capital, said Sotheby's.

The time-worn document features four verses of lyrics, without musical notation, written in pencil with "By Bob Dylan" scrawled at the top.

The 1964 song, one of the most celebrated tunes of that decade, was a beacon for a



A detail of folk singer Bob Dylan's handwritten lyrics to his famous anthem "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (AFP PHOTO)

folk-inspired protest movement that challenged prevailing attitudes towards race, poverty and the Vietnam War.

Dylan, who turns 70 next year, continues to record and

perform.

"The Times They Are A-Changin'" first debuted on the January 1964 album of the same name

Jazz sax, be-bop legend James Moody dead at 85

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) - Jazz saxophonist and flute player James Moody, who helped create the be-bop style of the 1940s, died Thursday from pancreatic cancer in San Diego, his wife said in a statement. He was 85.

"My sweet, darling, precious husband died today at 1:07 pm (2107 GMT) after a 10-month fight with pancreatic cancer," said Linda Moody.

"Because my greatest wish was to ensure that Moody transitioned peacefully and quietly, we have been at San Diego Hospice and Institute for Palliative Medicine since last Monday," she added.

Moody was considered a jazz legend, having assisted

the birth of bebop along with other such musical greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Max Roach, Bud Powell and Thelonious Monk.

Best known for his hit "Moody's Mood for Love," he began his musical career playing in the US Air Force band during World War II. After his discharge, he joined forces with Gillespie, whom he called his jazz role model, and recorded his first session in 1948.

"Moody had two goals," his wife said. "One, to go to a special friend's wedding on 10/10/10, and two, to see his great-grandson born on October 22nd.

"He made both of those goals and even came to



Thanksgiving dinner long enough to tell the family how much he loved all of them."

A public funeral for Savannah, Georgia-born Moody will be held December 18 at San Diego's Greenwood Memorial Park.

Assange "man of the year" in Naples nativity creches



NAPLES, Italy - Wikileaks founder Julian Assange may be alone in jail in London, but in the traditional Neapolitan Christmas creches he is in good company -- with Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Assange, who is depicted holding his trusty lap top, was

created by Gennaro Di Virgilio, who each year chooses at least one contemporary character to sculpt and place near the scenes of the traditional story of Jesus' birth in a manger.

"I included him to poke a little fun at the world and have a good time," said Di Virgilio, 29, whose family has been making nativity statuettes and ornate creches since 1830.

In recent decades, artists and craftsmen who make

Neapolitan creches have used them to portray the signs of the times.

"In a sense, Assange is the man of the year," said Di Virgilio, whose tiny shop is one of many on a narrow Naples street named Via San Gregorio Armeno that specialized in Christmas statues, creches and trinkets all year.

There is only one copy of the Assange statuette, which costs 130 euros. Di Virgilio says he will make others on request.

There are, however, multiple copies of statuettes of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi that Italians can place in the manger with the Holy Family, the wise men, the ox and the sheep.

Amir Khan grinds out WBA win over Maidana



Amir Khan, of England, poses for photos after defeating Marcos Maidana

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) – Amir Khan used a series of combinations to the head and powerful body shots to grind out a 12-round unanimous decision over Marcos Maidana in their WBA title fight.

The 23-year-old Khan on Saturday survived the toughest test of his boxing career to successfully defend his 140-pound title.

"I was hit by his best shots and I am still there," Khan said.

"I know I made mistakes, but I worked hard and came back stronger than ever.

"He's a strong fighter, and he hits hard. My chin was tested. I'm not taking anything away from him. He's a great champion. I proved today I've got a chin."

Khan (24-1, 17 KOs) started quickly, knocking Maidana down late in the opening round but it proved

to be the lone knockdown of the fight at the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino.

The relentless Maidana (29-2) regrouped and by the 10th round he bloodied and buckled Khan's knees, almost sending the British champion to the canvas.

Khan responded with a flurry of punches in the 11th and 12th rounds to take the fight on all three judges' scorecards.

The Bolton fighter, who is based in California, finished the fight with blood flowing from his nose.

Judges Jerry Roth and C.J. Ross scored the bout 114-111 for Khan, and Glenn Trowbridge favoured Khan 113-112.

Maidana was not happy with the judges' scores, saying he did enough to recover from the knockout and score points in the later rounds to

earn the title.

"I thought I won it," the Argentine fighter said. "I did enough in the final rounds but they gave him the decision."

Maidana, who has a reputation as a dangerous and sometimes dirty fighter, had one point deducted by referee Joe Cortez in the fifth round after he tried to elbow Khan during a break in the action. The elbow missed and hit Cortez in the chest.

Khan suffered his only loss in 2008 -- a shocking defeat as he was knocked out by Colombia's Breidis Prescott.

Khan, the 2004 Olympic silver medalist, said he chose to fight Maidana because he wanted to show he was prepared to go up against the toughest in his weight class.

"I made a mistake in my past now I am a different fighter thanks to (trainer) Freddie Roach," Khan said in the ring after the fight.

Khan was fighting for just the second time in the United States. He stopped Paulie Malignaggi in the 11th round of a one-sided fight last May in New York.

Both Khan and Maidana fought Andreas Kotelnik in 2009. Maidana, who has 23 KOs in the first three rounds, had won four consecutive fights since dropping a split decision to Kotelnik in February. Just five months later, Khan beat Kotelnik in 12 rounds for the WBA title.

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Martin survives scare to win Dunhill title again



LEOPARD CREEK (AFP) - Spaniard Pablo Martin survived a late scare Sunday to become the first golfer in two years to successfully defend a European Tour event.

The 24-year-old from Malaga also became the first competitor to win the Alfred Dunhill Championship twice as he finished with a two-

under 70 for a total of 277 and a two-stroke victory.

Irish star Padraig Harrington was the last golfer to win the same European Tour event in consecutive seasons when he lifted the British Open in 2007 and the following year.

Rookie Anthony Michael, who entered the final round at Leopard Creek Country Club one shot ahead, shared second place on 279 with fellow South African Charl Schwartzel (70) and Dane Thorbjorn Olesen (66).

Another South African, Thomas Aiken, was sole occupant of fifth place on 281 after a closing 70 over the 6631-metre course designed by nine-Major-winner Gary Player and bordering the Kruger National Park wildlife paradise.

Martin was five shots ahead with seven holes left but a series of mishaps, including a triple-bogey seven on the par-four 17 where he found a bunker, saw him walk nervously to the last tee clinging to a one-stroke advantage.

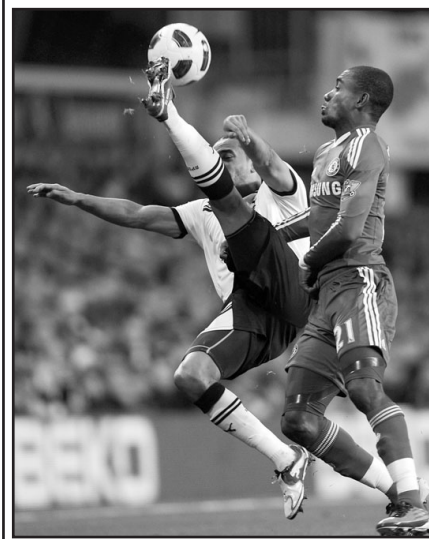
A superb drive from the Spaniard at the par five last was followed by a bold mid-iron second over the water and he two putted for an birdie and victory in the first event of the 2011 Road-to-Dubai circuit.

Knowing Martin was on the green at 18 in two, Michael cast aside caution and tried to emulate the leader from a difficult lie in the rough only to find the water and did well to finish with a par five.

"I started my final round very well with some good putts," Martin said of a sizzling front-nine 30 that included an eagle three at the second, three birdies and no dropped shots.

"The second last hole was a big mess," confessed the Spaniard who arrived in the eastern Mpumalanga province from New York only on the eve of the tournament and did not have time for a practice round.

Chelsea pay penalty against Spurs, miss top spot



Tottenham Hotspur's Cameroonian player Benoit Assou-Ekotto (L) clears the ball with an overhead kick in front of Chelsea's Ivorian player Salomon Kalou (R) during the Premiership football match at White Hart Lane in London on December 12, 2010. The game ended 1-1.

Chelsea missed the chance to go top in the English Premier League after Didier Drogba saw a late penalty saved in a 1-1 draw away to Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Spurs goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes, who'd let substitute Drogba's shot go through his hands for Chelsea's 70th minute equaliser, brought down Ramires in stoppage time.

Chelsea missed the chance to go top in the English Premier League after Didier Drogba saw a late penalty saved in a 1-1 draw away to Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

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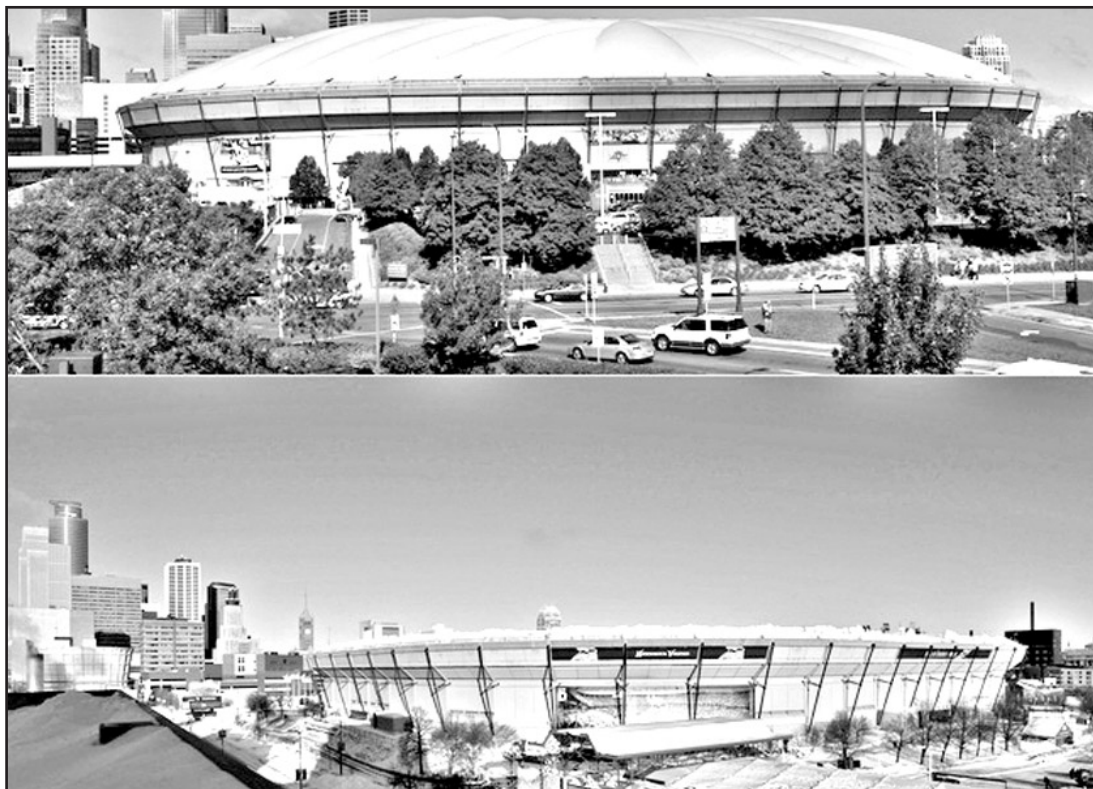


Photo composite shows Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Mall of America Stadium before (above) and after its inflatable roof collapsed under the weight of snow and during a storm Sunday morning December 12, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MINNEAPOLIS (AFP) - The Minnesota Vikings-New York Giants National Football League has been postponed to Monday after a storm dumped 38 centimetres (15 inches) of snow on the

Minneapolis area.

The indoor facility's Teflon-coated fiberglass roof deflated and a section ripped.

The Giants were unable to fly out of the Kansas City airport for the Sunday game, the

NFL announced on its website Saturday.

The severe weather shut down the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Saturday. The Giants left New York but their flight was diverted to Missouri.

The delay allows injured Vikings quarterback Brett Favre another day to recover.

Roy Terwilliger, the chairman of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission (MSFC), said he was optimistic the roof can be repaired in time for the Vikings' scheduled home game against Chicago on December 20.

Equipment attached to the roof structure such as speakers remained intact.

"There were no injuries, which we're thankful for," said Bill Lester, the MSFC's executive director.

Tevez: "I want to quit Manchester City"

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez said Sunday he wanted to leave the English Premier League high-flyers as his relationship with "certain executives and individuals" at the club "has broken down beyond repair".

But City captain Tevez, in a statement issued by his agent Kia Joorabchian, stressed he had "no personal issue" with manager Roberto Mancini despite their seemingly fractious relationship, and thanked owner Sheikh Mansour for his "understanding and support".

It is understood that one of the people Tevez has fallen out with at Eastlands is City

chief executive Garry Cook.

Earlier Sunday, City confirmed they had rejected a transfer request from the Argentina striker, who has scored 33 goals in 50 Premier League games since joining from arch-rivals Manchester United before the start of last season and who is not due to leave Eastlands until 2014.

However, Tevez appeared intent on leaving, saying in his statement: "I can confirm I have handed a transfer request to the chairman of Manchester City Football Club.

"Now I need to clear my head and think because this is an important part of my career," the 26-year-old added.



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Cole docked 20,000 dollars

NEW YORK (AFP) — Philadelphia Eagles player Trent Cole has been slapped with a 20,000 dollar fine by the National Football League for an illegal hit on Houston quarterback Matt Schaub.

The incident took place in the Eagles' 34-24 win over Houston on December 2.

St. Louis Rams player Alan Branch was also fined 10,000 dollars for a roughing the passer penalty on quarterback Sam Bradford.

Detroit Lions defensive player Cliff Avril has been fined 15,000 dollars for an illegal hit on Chicago quarterback Jay Culter.

Thongchai makes history in Cambodia

SIEM REAP (AFP) - Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee was in a class of his own as he cruised to an unprecedented 13th Asian Tour title at the Johnnie Walker Cambodian Open on Sunday.

The untouchable three-time Asian Tour Order of Merit winner posted a final-round seven-under-par 65 to

win the 300,000-dollar event in Siem Reap by four shots with a four-day total of 267.

Japan's Kenichi Kuboya, who had held the lead for three rounds, had to settle for a disappointing second place after signing off with a 70 for a 271 total at the Phokeethra Country Club.

"I played really solid all

week and I've no complaints. This is my second win at the Johnnie Walker Cambodia Open and I'm really proud of myself," said Thongchai.

There was little to choose between him and Kuboya until the Japanese made a costly mess at the par-three 14th with a double bogey, giving Thongchai a three-

shot lead.

Thongchai stormed home convincingly with three birdies in his last three holes to secure his first win this season and a record 13th career title on the Asian Tour.

"If I continue my good form, there is a good chance of winning again next week," said Thongchai of his title as-

pirations at next week's Black Mountain Masters in Hua Hin in his homeland, the Asian Tour's season finale.

South Korea's Kim Hyung-Sung returned with a 72 to take third place on 273 while India's Anirban Lahiri and Guido Van der Valk of the Netherlands took a share of fourth place on matching 274s.

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